

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/903,704	MORAN ET AL.
	Examiner Kaveh Abrishamkar	Art Unit 2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Appeal Brief filed on 5/29/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/28/2007.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Frantz (Reg. No. 42,553) on August 28, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. Claims 4, 12, 17, and 20 are currently amended by virtue of this Examiner's Amendment as given below.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):

A method for managing permission indicators for computer system protected objects comprising the steps of:

providing in a computer readable medium a plurality of permission indicator containers in an access control list;

associating a first set of permission indicators with a primary permission indicator container; **[[and]]**

associating in a computer readable medium accessible by an authorization control system one or more additional sets of permission indicators with additional permission

indicator containers, wherein said permission indicators are reused among said containers such that permission indicators may be categorized and grouped logically to control a number of unique permissions less than or equal to the product of a quantity of allowable action indicators and a quantity of allowable action group tags ; and
granting authorization to a requesting computer or program to perform
actions on said requested protected system resource according to said
permission indicators in said permission indicator containers.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended):

A computer readable medium encoded with software for managing permission indicators for computer system protected objects, said software performing steps comprising:

providing a plurality of permission indicator containers in an access control list; associating a first set of permission indicators with a primary permission indicator container; **[[and]]**

associating one or more additional sets of permission indicators with additional permission indicator containers, wherein said permission indicators are reused among said containers such that permission indicators may be categorized and grouped logically to control a number of unique permissions less than or equal to the product of a quantity of allowable action indicators and a quantity of allowable action group tags ; and

granting authorization to a requesting computer or program to perform

actions on said requested protected system resource according to said permission indicators in said permission indicator containers.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended):

An authorization system for extending and grouping actions and permissions for authorization of a requesting user to access or use a requested protected system resource in a computer system, said system comprising:

a computer system;

an access control policy disposed in a ~~computer readable~~ medium **readable by said computer system and** associated with said requested protected system resource, having a permission list of permitted identities and at least one action group tag with associated action indicators, wherein a finite quantity of action indicators are reused among a plurality of action group tags to control a number of unique permissions less than or equal to the product of the quantity of allowable action indicators and a quantity of allowable action group tags;

a permission list evaluator **cooperative with said computer system** for evaluating an access control policy permission list according to a specific permission definition associated with said action group tag, said permission definition providing a correlation between members of a set of action indicators; and

an authorization grantor **cooperative with said computer system** adapted to grant authorization to a requesting computer or program to perform actions on said

requested protected system resource to said requesting user if said access control policy permission list includes an appropriate action indicator correlated to an action group tag.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-24 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The aforementioned claims are allowed because the Cited Prior Art (CPA), Trabelsi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0056494 A1), does not teach or render obvious all of the limitations present in the independent claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20, and the subsequent dependent claims.
4. The CPA does not disclose "reusing a finite quantity of action indicators among a plurality of action group tags to control a number of unique permissions less than or equal to the product of the quantity of allowable action indicators and a quantity of allowable action group tags," as is recited in the independent claims. This allows for an extension of the finite number of ACL permissions for a security policy management system. The method accomplishes this task by using logical groupings using actions (action groups) to categorize the different actions, facilitating the management of actions. Furthermore, the method reuses a finite quantity of action indicators among a plurality of action group tags to control a number of unique permissions.

The present invention addresses the following drawbacks of prior art security mechanisms: 1) finite limitations on the number of policy permissions in an ACL entry, 2) difficult management of permission groups, and 3) lack of a categorization of actions into action groups.

Thus this invention delineates a method of extending and grouping actions and permissions by reusing a finite quantity of action indicators among a plurality of action group tags to control a number of unique permissions less than or equal to the product of the quantity of allowable action indicators and a quantity of allowable action group tags, and granting authorization to perform actions if, after evaluating the permission list according to the definition associated with the action group tag, the access control policy permission list includes an appropriate action indicator correlated to an action group tag.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KA 8/28/07

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08/28/2007

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